

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 111030Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3676
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0105

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TZ, RH
SUBJECT: NYERERE'S SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. TANZANIA MEDIA JAN 10 ANNOUNCED DECISION OF FRONT-LINE
PRESIDENTS, MEETING IN LUSAKA, TO "GIVE FULL POLITICAL, MATERIAL,
AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT" TO THE NKOMO/MUGABE "PATRIOTIC FRONT."

2. PRESIDENT NYERERE'S BACKING OF THIS DECISION, WHICH HE
ANNOUNCED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS, CAUSES
US NO SURPRISE. NYERERE HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT TO FIND A ZIMBABWE
COALITION WHICH COULD (A) VIABLY CONDUCT THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE;
(B) AVOID A POST-INDEPENDENCE CIVIL WAR OF THE ANGOLA MODEL; AND
(C) ENSURE THAT THE INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE FOLLOWS A MILITANT,
SOCIALIST POLICY. HE HAD HOPED AT ONE TIME THAT THE "UMBRELLA"
ANC OF BISHOP MUZOREWA, AFTER IT GATHERED IN ZANU, ZAPU,
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AND FROLEZI, MIGHT MEET THESE CONDITIONS, BUT IT FELL APART.

3. NOW NYERERE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER FRONT-LINE STATES,
IS HAVING ANOTHER TRY. PRESUMABLY, HE HOPES THAT THIS DECISION
WILL INDUCE THE OTHER ZIMBABWE LEADERS (MUZOREWA, SITHOLE ET AL)
TO GET ON THE BANDWAGON. IN ANY CASE, THE "PATRIOTIC FRONT" HAS
THE ADVANTAGE OF APPARENT ZIPA MILITARY SUPPORT, AND THIS IS OF

GREAT IMPORTANCE IF FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS ARE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE GOOD THEIR IMPLIED ASSURANCE AT LUSAKA THAT THE FORMATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WILL BRING AN END TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE. IT ALSO BRINGS TOGETHER ONE MILITANT (MUGABE), AND AN EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN (NKOMO) WHO IS MORE REASSURING TO WESTERN SUPPORTERS OF ZIMBABWE MAJORITY RULE.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE FRONT-LINE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PROVISIONAL, AND DEPENDENT ON THE ABILITY OF THAT GROUP TO RETAIN ITS VIABILITY AND UNITY. IN THE MEANTIME, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE CONSIGNED ENTIRELY TO DARKNESS. WE EXPECT THAT SITHOLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO KEEP THE HOUSE PROVIDED FOR HIM BY NYERERE IN DAR ES SALAAM'S MOST EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD.
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